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October 2, 2003

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Peter D. Shields  
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Ms Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S W  
Washington, D.C 20554

Re: **Notice of Ex Parte Discussion**, In the Matter of Requests for Review of  
Funding Request Decisions of the Universal Service Administrator, CC  
Docket Nos 96-45, 97-21

Dear Ms Dortch:

On October 1, 2003, Richard Wiley, Mimi Dawson and I, of Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP ("WRF"), as counsel for International Business Machines Corporation ("IBM"), met with Commissioner Adelstein and his Legal Advisor, Lisa Zaina, to discuss pending appeals in the above-referenced docket. Specifically, counsel requested the Commissioner to consider the appeals individually, recognizing that not all appeals include the same fact pattern. Counsel also expressed IBM's commitment to the E-Rate program and its intent to continue to participate in the program.

This letter and one copy are being filed for inclusion in the above-noted dockets pursuant to Commission Rule 1.1206(b)(2), 47 C.F.R. §1.1206(b)(2). Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Shields  
Counsel for International Business Machines Corporation

cc. Commissioner Adelstein  
Legal Advisor Zaina

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